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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/783,433	02/23/2004	Todd Philip Domke		6356
7590	04/06/2006		EXAMINER	
John P. Halvonik Ste. 202 15200 Shady Grove Rd. Rockville, MD 20840			GUIDOTTI, LAURA COLE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			1744	

DATE MAILED: 04/06/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Response to Rule 312 Communication	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	10/783,433	DOMKE, TODD PHILIP
	Examiner Laura C. Guidotti	Art Unit 1744

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

1. The amendment filed on 18 January 2006 under 37 CFR 1.312 has been considered, and has been:

- a) entered.
- b) entered as directed to matters of form not affecting the scope of the invention.
- c) disapproved because the amendment was filed after the payment of the issue fee.
Any amendment filed after the date the issue fee is paid must be accompanied by a petition under 37 CFR 1.313(c)(1) and the required fee to withdraw the application from issue.
- d) disapproved. See explanation below.
- e) entered in part. See explanation below.

Applicant's page and line numbers do not correspond exactly to the page and line numbers to be amended in the amendment filed under 37 CFR 1.312.

The patent application should be amended as follows:

On Page 2 Line 8 please delete -- maybe -- and in its place insert -- may --

On Page 2 Line 18 please delete -- maybe -- and in its place insert -- may be --

On Page 2 Line 32 please delete the first occurrence of -- two -- and in its place insert -- to --

The Examiner was unable to correlate the page and line number of the last amendment requested ("Page 3, Line 24").

Please see attached sheet where Examiner has attempted to show the Applicant's changes to the Specification.

It is also noted that the Substitute Specification of 20 June 2005 was not entered.

LCG


GLADYS JP CORCORAN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

Before use, the toothbrush may be stored in this position with the two halves unfolded and joined along the spine 3 so that the left and right halves can be folded against one another. When in this unfolded position, the toothbrush will present a very narrow thickness (thickness of a half shown by line D in fig. 3)

Because of this narrow thickness, the toothbrush can be stored in a very narrow space. It is likely to rest upon the bottom edge of the handle 1 and so remain on a store shelf in an upright position. A large number of such toothbrushes and associated packaging ~~may~~ may be stored in this manner, by resting upright, upon a store shelf.

Such a brush when in the unfolded position would be of such narrow thickness so that it could be carried within the wallet of the user. The brush would preferably be about 3" or 4" in length (length shown by arrow B in fig. 2) and perhaps an inch or so in width (width shown by arrow A in fig. 2). However, the thickness of the brush, could be made to less than an inch (arrow D in fig. 3; arrow C in fig 4 shows the thickness of the brush when in the folded up position and ready to be used).

Each half of the brush ~~may~~ may be described as having a bristle end 5 and a handle end 6. The bristle end contains bristles and the handle end is used to hold the brush. The length of the handle will thus define a line 3 that runs parallel to each of the handles. And the two halves of the brush will pivot along a line that is parallel to this line. So that each brush half will contain both bristles and a handle..

It is preferred that the bristle end of each half be a single row of bristles so that when in the stored flat position (see fig. 1) the toothbrush will only be one bristle thick. In other words it will present a line of single bristles. Importantly, each set of bristles 5 on each half will project outward from the handle in the unfolded position. This orientation can be seen in fig. 1.

When the halves are folded in connection with one another they will form a bristle end that is only two bristles wide (see fig. 4), in other words each single row of bristles has joined with the other ^{two} to make a set of bristles two rows wide. In the illustration, each bristle end is a single row of 9 bristles, although the actual number of bristles may vary (less than or more than 9) it is preferred that there only be one row of bristles for each bristle half 5.

When the halves are joined together the two sets of bristles will join to form one bristle head that is used to brush the teeth. Again in the illustration, the bristle head as completed is 2x9 but other configurations are possible so long as the bristle head is two bristles wide when joined.

Likewise, the handle ends will join together to form one handle. Fig. 3 shows the action of joining as seen looking down the length of the brush so that one can see each set of bristles joining with the other set so as to form the bristle head.